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# Israeli, Tied to Spying in U.S., Said to Lose Job

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JERUSALEM, Dec. 21 — Rafael Eitan, the man who is said to have masterminded the Israeli espionage operation in Washington, has been removed from his post as the head of an intelligence gathering unit in the Ministry of Defense and is expected to retire quietly in the near future, Israeli officials said today.

Although he is still on the Government payroll, Mr. Eitan is no longer associated with the Defense Ministry's Liaison Bureau for Scientific Affairs, which is being dismantled while its activities are reorganized and divided up.

The liaison bureau directed Israel's espionage operation in Washington involving the American who has been accused of spying for Israel, Jonathan Jay Pollard, Israeli officials said.

## 'Punishment Enough'

Israeli officials said they did not expect Mr. Eitan — who had a distinguished career in Israeli intelligence dating from the 1950's and rose to be chief of operations of the Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, in the 1970's — to be formally punished in any way for his involvement the Pollard affair.

"For someone like Rafi Eitan, who did many worthwhile jobs in intelligence over the years, to be exposed in such a messy affair, which was repudiated publicly by the Israeli Government, is punishment enough," said one Israeli familiar with the situation.

"No one will touch him," said another Israeli military analyst with close ties to some of those involved.

Among his reputed exploits, Mr. Eitan is said to have been the Mossad agent who knocked out the Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann on a street in Buenos Aires in 1960, enabling an Israeli team to abduct him and take him to Israel for trial.

Moreover, Mr. Eitan, who has not

been in good health, is a member of the central committee of the Herut wing of the Likud bloc, a major partner in Israel's coalition Government. Thus any attempt to punish him could have serious political implications, which none of the country's political leaders want now.

After an American investigative team returned from a week of questioning Mr. Eitan and several Israeli diplomats purportedly involved in the Pollard affair, the State Department issued a statement in Washington on Friday saying Israel had informed the United States it had taken steps to disband the liaison bureau and to return all the documents Mr. Pollard purportedly conveyed to Israel.

Strict new guidelines are being issued to Israeli intelligence to prevent

any repetition of spying in the United States, Israeli officials said.

"They have been told unequivocally not to get involved in any covert activity of any kind in the United States," a senior Israeli official said. This has always been the formal policy of Israeli intelligence.

As for the liaison bureau, known as Lekem for its initials in Hebrew, exactly how it is being disbanded is not clear. It was founded in the early 1960's to gather scientific intelligence, and in its first 20 years of operation it was run by the same man, who usually kept it out of any covert activities.

Mr. Eitan was given the leadership of the liaison bureau in 1981, possibly as a consolation prize after not getting the job he wanted most — the head of the Mossad. He apparently pushed the bureau into a more activist approach, in competition with Israel's other intelligence agencies.

The bureau's former responsibilities for collecting scientific information are expected to be divided between the Defense Ministry's science bureau and the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Israeli officials said they were generally relieved after the State Department's announcement Friday and now consider the Pollard case to be closed for Israel. They expressed hope that if a case is assembled against Mr. Pollard, he will plead guilty and avoid a trial at which he might be asked to name names and discuss his contacts with Israel over the years.